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06248-1111

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RE: COMMITTEE BILL NO 215, LCO 3170, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATE PARKS

I am John E. Hibbard. I reside at 1072 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut and I am submitting the following testimony on my own behalf on Committee Bill 215, LCO No. 3170 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STATE PARKS.

I WISH TO GO ON RECORD IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED BILL

The bill as written may have unintended consequences as it may discourage persons from considering gifts of land for the establishment of parks, forests and wildlife areas by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

This concern may also extend to private non-profit organizations as well as municipal entities in dealing with individuals who seek to protect land for similar purposes.

There are several examples relative to the establishment of state parks that took a considerable period of time. A prime example is the establishment of Sherwood Island State Park in Westport when the first acquisition of land took place in 1913 in the purchase of five acres of salt marsh and by 1937 238 acres provided for the development of the Park which more recently includes the Connecticut 9/11 Memorial to Connecticut persons who lost their lives on 9/11.

I have been involved in the preservation of land for public purposes including the Establishment of State Parks for 50 years through fund raising purposes, dealing with individuals in their interest in land protection, and as Chair and member of various state advisory boards dealing with these matters.

I appreciate the opportunity to present my thoughts on Committee Bill 215.